

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

|                |   |                 |             |
|----------------|---|-----------------|-------------|
| COUNTRY        | USSR (Zakarpatskaya and Stalingrad Oblasts)   | REPORT          |             |
| SUBJECT        | 1. Miscellaneous Information on the Zakarpatskaya Oblast<br>2. Concentration Camp in Stalingrad | DATE DISTR.     | 21 May 1953 |
| DATE OF INFO.  |   | NO. OF PAGES    | 6           |
| PLACE ACQUIRED |   | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD 25X1     |
|                |   | REFERENCES      |             |
|                |   |                 | 25X1        |

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

### Introduction of Kolkhozy

25X1

1. After the annexation of the Zakarpatskaya Oblast by the USSR, private property remained in the hands of its owners for about 1.5 years. After that, kolkhozy were introduced and farmers were invited to join them. However, voluntary methods for establishing the kolkhozy were unsuccessful so more drastic methods were undertaken. First, two or three farms in each village were confiscated and the former owners were denounced as class enemies and traitors and were arrested. Next, pressure was used to force small land holders to join the newly formed kolkhozy. If they did not join voluntarily, they were allowed to keep their farms but were given such high delivery quotas to fulfill that they were unable to meet them. In such cases, the farmer was forced to buy grain at high prices on the open market to make up for the deficit. When he was unable to do this, he was denounced as a saboteur of kolkhozy and of planned economy, was arrested, and put into a concentration camp.

### Standard of Living

2. Living conditions in the area were very poor; prices were high, wages low. Following is a list of commodity prices prior to December 1951:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 kg of lard.....  | 50 rubles          |
| 1 kg of brown bread (white bread was not available)..... | 2 rubles           |
| 1 kg of raw pork.....                                    | 45 rubles          |
| Soap .....   | 4 - 5 rubles       |
| Worsted suit (only foremen can afford them).....         | 900 - 1,000 rubles |

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

|       |      |      |     |     |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| STATE | ARMY | NAVY | AIR | FBI | AEC |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-2-

Shoes ..... 450 rubles  
 Man's shirt ..... 100 rubles

3. People in the area were dressed in rags and torn shoes. Sometimes factories obtained special allocations of garments and shoes for the workers and sold them at half price. In most cases, however, these allocations were distributed among the foremen and directors and only a few things were left for those who needed them most.
4. A saw mill, which paid a joiner 13 rubles per day, frequently was unable to pay all its workers on the first of the month, often making the workers wait a month or more for their wages. The reason given by the mill was that the bank had no money, the factory was in debt, or that the budget was overdrawn. There was no appeal and the people were sometimes reduced to living on potatoes and salt. In the most serious hardship cases, when workers lacked money even for potatoes, they would be advanced 100 rubles only after their case had been investigated by a foreman.
5. Workers with more than three children at home received a monthly allowance of 10 rubles for each child. Single workers suffered wage reductions of 150 or more rubles presumably per month if they did not marry by the age of 20. This greatly encouraged early marriages. All girls were compelled to work.
6. After a worker had been employed in a factory for at least a year, he received sick benefits at the rate of 50 percent of his normal wage, but a doctor had to certify his illness. If the worker was still unable to work after six weeks, he was entitled to draw full wages. Workers over 65 years old, who had worked with one firm for 25 years, could claim a monthly allowance of 200 rubles.
7. People's homes were furnished with only the most essential furniture. There were no feather beds in workers' homes and only a few blankets. Good furniture could be seen in homes of Communist leaders.
8. Only scrap pieces of cloth were available for baby clothing and baby carriages were a great luxury. Children under three years of age were accepted in kindergarten only if they were semi-orphans and their parent was at work during the day. Children's hospitals were 25 kilometers away from the villages, which had to depend on "doctors" who had only two or three months' training. Such "doctors", who were selected Communist propagandists, decided whether or not a worker was in physical condition to work. As a general rule, a worker had to have a high fever or have been seriously hurt to be relieved from his duties.
9. There was little time for sports in the Zakarpatskaya Oblast. Tennis, riding, and car or motorcycle racing no longer existed, and cycling was unpopular because tires cost around 150 rubles each. Football and volleyball remained the only popular sports.
10. Working people rarely went to places of entertainment and, if they did, it was usually in working clothes as they had nothing else to put on. Communist leaders, foremen, and their wives were well dressed.
11. All movie theaters and entertainment enterprises were gradually nationalized.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-3-

during the first two years of Soviet control. Only Soviet films were shown and the theaters were seldom visited because there was little money available among the population for entertainment. There were entertainment centers or clubs, each of which was equipped only with a radio, a phonograph, and a political library. The club leader, who was a fanatical Communist and a reliable revolutionary, was paid 350 rubles per month.

12. Only a few people, most of them directors, foremen, and political leaders, privately owned their radios. Residents of the area were afraid to listen to foreign broadcasts so only Soviet political propaganda and Russian music were heard.
13. Youth who had passed ten grades in school could be teachers.

#### Persecution of Religions

14. About six months after the annexation of the Zakarpatskaya Oblast by the Soviet Union, the Church started to support the Communist regime and priests tried to persuade the audiences that the Russian Orthodox Church was the only good church.<sup>1</sup>
15. During Mass the people were told to go to various political meetings in local clubs, and the people had to attend if they wanted to retain their employment. At these meetings the subject for discussion was usually the Communist campaign against other churches, or other political discussions. As such propaganda was not accepted by the people, local authorities issued an order that Sundays would become workdays if necessary, and a "day of rest" would be granted at a different time. Working on Sundays became compulsory and disobedience was punished by six months at forced labor, during which time 25 percent of the prisoner's wages were deducted. Those who disobeyed were also excluded from receiving such special allocations of clothes and shoes as were sometimes distributed in the factories. Absenteeism was regarded by the Communists as subversive activity against the USSR.
16. When priests continued to read masses on the holidays, and Sundays that were proclaimed workdays, the Communists then made efforts to persuade them to enter the Russian Orthodox Church. Later, they were given a time-limit in which to decide whether or not they wanted to enter the Church and, if they decided against it, they were usually put in prison. Many were sentenced to 25 years of forced labor, which meant deportation to Siberia. Members of the families of these men received financial allotments until the wife sought a divorce.
17. Churches which did not have parish priests were taken over by the Russian Orthodox Church and quite a number of churches were closed and changed into stores, warehouses, or entertainment centers. Churches of other creeds and synagogues were, in time, nationalized and also placed under the Russian Orthodox Church, which is now the only Christian church left in the Zakarpatskaya Oblast. Komsomol members were forbidden to enter even the Russian Orthodox Churches. Weddings were performed in the offices of National Committees (sic) by a Communist official.
18. In spite of the great terror and Communist propaganda, people hoped that liberation would come soon and that they would be able to live normally again.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

Concentration Camps

19. Political conversations in restaurants and entertainment centers were strictly prohibited and the people were afraid to speak openly. If caught expressing views against the Soviet regime, people were frequently taken away by the MVD or the militia, never to see their families again. Prisoners were not permitted to write and nobody knew where they were detained.

20. The concentration camp in Stalingrad [redacted] housed about 5,000 prisoners. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

21. The concentration camp in Stalingrad was surrounded by a barbed wire fence, inside of which was a two-to three-meter-wide ploughed and harrowed strip on which prisoners were forbidden to trespass. At each corner of the enclosed area was a four-to five-meter-high watchtower which held a guard armed with a rifle and a sub-machine gun. The camp consisted of a number of one-room wood barracks which accommodated 100 to 120 prisoners each. Bunks consisted simply of tiers of planks, and sanitary conditions in the barracks were generally poor. Prisoners worked in gangs of 25 men. Eight to ten MVD men, who were armed with sub-machine guns and had dogs, guarded about 100 prisoners.

22. Breakfast in the camp usually consisted of potato soup made of potatoes, boiled with vegetables and grass. Every prisoner received a large spoonful of soup and 65 decagrams of bread, his allocation for the entire day. At lunch, there was soup again, this time with about two gills of mashed salted potatoes or porridge. Evening meals consisted of the same soup as was served in the morning. Each prisoner received about 30 grams of meat twice weekly. If a prisoner did not fulfill his work norms, his food was cut and he was often locked in a cold room with concrete walls and floor, stripped of his clothes, and left there overnight. There is an example of a prisoner being stripped, tied, and beaten with everything the guards could lay their hands on until he fell unconscious. After the guards had thrown cold water on him and he had regained consciousness, he was beaten for a second time until he was again unconscious. The camp doctor was then called and, after a diagnosis of "alive" was given, the prisoner was put into his room and left there until the next morning, when he was ordered to resume his normal work. Dead prisoners were buried anywhere outside the camp with nothing to indicate their graves and not even the closest relatives were notified of their death.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-5-

23. Prisoners were permitted to receive parcels from relatives only if they had fulfilled their work norms 100 percent. Prisoners who exceeded their work norms 150 percent were promised a two-day reduction of sentence for each day that they exceeded their work norms. However, all the advantages a prisoner had gained by increased output were cancelled and he had to start from the beginning if he was unable to work for even ten minutes within a period of six months. Those who completed their work norms 150 percent were notified of their sentence reduction every six months.
24. If a prisoner escaped from camp or from work, the other prisoners were stopped from working until the escapee was found. Time thus missed had to be made up. Guards never carried arms because of the danger of the prisoners' overpowering them. Arms were usually stored in the guard room. Watchtowers were equipped with searchlights which operated constantly after dark.
25. Reveille was at 0500 hours in summer, 0600 hours in winter. Prisoners had to hike six kilometers to work each day. The average norm for sewer digging was about 43 linear meters per day per forced laborer.
26. When a prisoner was about to be released, he had to swear not to reveal the nature of his work, what conditions in camp were like, and how he was treated.

Administrative Authorities

27. In the Zakarpatskaya Oblast, local administrative offices were called "Sil Rada", while the district (rayon) administration was called "Okruzshnyy Komitet". Chairman of the "Okruzshnyy Komitet" in Uzhgorod (N 48-38, M 22-16) was Kusanir (fnu). Head of the MVD was Captain Zekov (fnu), a tall strongly built man, 32 to 40 years old. He lived in Uzhgorod.

Military

28. The military garrison stationed in Uzhgorod consisted of infantry, artillery, and a tank battalion, altogether numbering about 20,000 men. There were also other units, a headquarters, and an airfield. The headquarters of the frontier guard units was in Mukachevo (N 48-26, M 22-43). A camouflaged anti-aircraft artillery unit was situated along the Czech - USSR border.
29. In March 1951, the 1928-31 military classes were called up. All recruits had their hair clipped short before starting service. Recruits from the Zakarpatskaya Oblast were first concentrated in Mukachevo, from where they were taken further into the USSR. They were transported in freight trains, each trainload carrying about 2,000 men. There were ten guards for every 500 recruits. Recruitment in Uzhgorod was performed by Lt. Col. Fomin (fnu). Only the classes which had been called up in 1945 were called up and no one who had served in a foreign army was taken.<sup>2</sup>
30. Zakarpatskaya Oblast had no ordinary police as in other countries, and order was maintained by militia who were armed with pistols.

Border Controls

31. The entire Czech - USSR frontier was separated by a 200-meter wide ploughed and harrowed strip and a system of wire-connected mines and signal rockets. In wooded areas, there was a watchtower with a frontier guard armed with a sub-machine gun. Along the whole frontier there was a green cable

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-6-

placed about one meter high. Whenever this cable was touched, a bulb automatically lighted up in the appropriate komendatura, showing the location where the cable had been touched.

#### Transportation

32. The Mukachevo Railroad Station consisted of a large base for transshipping goods going from Czechoslovakia or Hungary to the USSR.
33. Railroad tunnels near Uzhok ( N 48-39, E 22-52) on the Uzhgorod - Moscow Line were being repaired.

#### Industrial

34. In Perechin ( N 48-46, E 22-28) there was a plant which made gunpowder from cellulose, and a saw mill. The gunpowder factory employed about 1,000 people and was guarded by soldiers.

25X1

1.  Comment:  probably  Orthodox Churches not formerly under Soviet control.

25X1

2.  Comment: It is not clear from the text exactly what type of recruitment this was.  probably  troops who had been previously recruited in 1945 and were being recalled for refresher training.

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY